

# State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Initiative

December 2008 Update

## STATE LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM COMMITTEE VISION

- We envision a robust system with the capability to efficiently share and merge data from multiple sources while at the same time protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal information.
- We envision the creation of a data warehouse system for storing and tracking outcomes over time.
- We envision education and workforce organizations across the state operating in their own data rich environments.
- We envision an LDS partnership which has the knowledge and skills to manage and analyze data and assist others in doing the same.
- We envision education and workforce organizations working together at the state and local level to provide meaningful standards and guidelines for sharing data efficiently.

For more information contact:

Tracy Korsmo  
tkorsmo@nd.gov  
or  
Lisa Feldner  
lfeldner@nd.gov

Information  
Technology  
Department

(701) 328-1000  
www.nd.gov/itd

## SLDS Funding

In its November 14, 2008 report to the Governor and the Legislature, the Governor's Commission on Education Improvement recommended that \$2.2 million in ITD's budget be approved to fund the SLDS initiative in the 2009-2011 biennium.

The Governor included the requested funding in the Executive Budget Recommendation for 2009-2011.

If approved, the project will establish a governance structure to oversee decision-making about what data to collect and how to report it. Standards and policies will be developed to ensure the privacy and security of the data and a pilot project will be implemented.

The budget includes funding for hardware, software, and implementation costs for the initial construction of the longitudinal data system.

“As strategies to improve student performance are implemented, including strategies for teacher mentoring, tutors, career advisors, core curriculum, and assessments, it becomes increasingly important to gather reliable student data to confirm whether or not the strategies are producing the desired results.”

ND Commission on  
Education Improvement  
Report

## SLDS Committee Accomplishments

During the 2007 legislative session, House Bill 1021 revised North Dakota Century Code 15.1-02-18 to establish the Statewide Longitudinal Data System Committee and outlined a number of responsibilities. Over the last year, the Committee developed a mission, vision and goals to guide it.

In the spring of 2008, the committee hired Claraview, a consulting company, to develop

a roadmap outlining the steps necessary and the corresponding budget to develop a Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

From the report, the committee developed and submitted a budget initiative for moving forward with the recommendations.

A number of meetings with interested agencies have been held recently to further understand the need for sharing

data across agency boundaries and the obstacles that may be encountered. A list of questions that could potentially be answered by the SLDS has been developed. This preliminary list will help guide the detailed analysis that will be required prior to building a system. Information about the work of the committee and the documents produced can be found at [www.nd.gov/itd/planning/initiatives/slds.html](http://www.nd.gov/itd/planning/initiatives/slds.html).

## Participating Entities

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction  
North Dakota University System  
North Dakota Education Technology Council  
ND Department of Career & Technical Education  
North Dakota Department of Commerce  
Job Service of North Dakota

North Dakota Information Technology Dept.  
North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders  
North Dakota Department of Human Services  
North Dakota Department of Health  
North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission  
North Dakota Workforce Development